

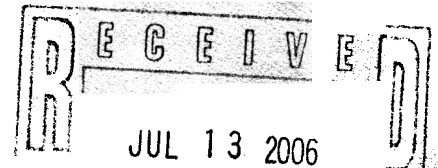
**Immigrant
Learning
Center**

Giving the Gift of Language

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Diane Portnoy
Director

July 12, 2006



Ms. Alicia Matthews
Director, Cable Division
Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

ABLE TELEVISION

Dear Ms. Matthews:

The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) is pleased to submit this letter in support of a petition filed by Verizon to the Department of Telecommunications and Energy (DTE) to establish a shorter and more predictable timeline for the competitive cable franchise process.

The ILC is an adult learning center in Malden founded in 1992. Our mission is to provide free classes in English to immigrant and refugee adults so they can lead productive lives in the U.S. and become successful workers, parents, and community members. We also promote immigrants as assets to America. Verizon helped launch our technology program and computer lab several years ago. As a result of their continued generosity, The ILC is able to offer computer literacy instruction to students, in addition to English as a Second Language instruction, and address digital divide issues within the immigrant population.

The ILC also support efforts, such as Verizon's, to ensure that foreign-born and native-born residents can access the latest in technology infrastructure investments. This will increase the educational and economic benefits of the entire community. If the proposed franchise reform is adopted, there will be more options for cable TV and broadband Internet service for the communities served by Verizon. More consumer choice will lead to more enhanced offerings, better service, and lower prices. Additionally, Verizon's new video service, as well as its voice and Internet services, will be offered over the most advanced fiber-optic network in the country.

Verizon has invested millions of dollars in Massachusetts to help ensure that the Bay State remains a strong leader in technology. The ILC respectfully requests that it be recorded in favor of CTV 06-01 to help all citizens receive the benefits of increased cable competition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Portnoy".

Diane Portnoy
Co-Founder and Director

cc: Director Janice Tatarka, Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation
Chairwoman Judith Judson
Commissioner James Connelly
Commissioner W. Robert Keating
Commissioner Brian Paul Golden